

REMARKS

The office action dated February 13, 2003 is a first action on the merits in this application, yet has been marked as "final". This is believed to be in error, wherefore finality should be withdrawn so that the Amendment may be entered.

The rejections of claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §112 has been addressed by providing antecedent basis in claim 5. Claim 5 has also been amended to recite the outer flange and the hub being formed integrally, i.e. as a single piece.

Claims 5-8 stand rejected as anticipated by Mackay U.S. 4,696,615. To the extent that this rejection would be applied to claims as presently amended, it is traversed for the reasons following.

Mackay discloses a recessed center grinding wheel 10 which is fitted with a backing plate 28 and a central hub 40 with a threaded central hole. The grinding wheel cannot be formed integrally with the hub because the abrasive material is not suitable for forming threads, and conversely the steel hub does not have abrasive properties. There is no practical way to form the backing plate 28 and the hub integrally because the former is sheet metal and the latter is a casting or forging. See in particular Figures 5 and 6. Indeed, since the object of the invention is to compress the grinding wheel between the hub and the backing plate during operation, these parts must be capable of relative axial movement. So Mackay teaches away from forming the hub and the backing plate integrally.

Claim 6 defines still further over Mackay, since the hub extends well above the front surface of the outer flange of the backing plate.


Newly submitted claims 9-12 define over Mackay for the same reasons as claim 5-8, and further because Mackay does not suggest a driver plate having an annular step which fits in an annular recess formed in the rear side of the backing plate.

The amended and newly submitted claims being definite and patentable over the art of record, withdrawal of the rejections and early allowance and solicited. If any objections remain, a call to the undersigned is requested.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application; however, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,

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